

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

-----095177 270912Z /10

R 270826Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4749

C O N F I D E N T I A L 5319

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: THRE MORE EM-9 TRIALS

1. THREE NEW EM-9 TRIALS HAVE COME TO ATTENTION OF EMBASSY DURING MONTH OF JUNE: A) IN TAE-SON, HANGUK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY STUDENT WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED MAY, 1977 FOR SPREADING FALSE RUMORS, STOOD TRIAL JUNE 9. PROSECUTION ASKED FOR TEN YEAR SENTENCE FOR IN. B) YI HAE-KYONG, A GRADUATE OF EWHA UNIVERSITY AND REPORTER FOR "WEEKLY CITIZEN", AND KO KWANG-SUN, A GIRL WHO HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM EWHA UNIVERSITY IN 1976, STOOD TRIAL JUNE 9 ALSO. THEY HAD BEEN ARRESTED AROUND APRIL 17 FOR DISTRIBUTING ANTI-ROKG PAMPHLETS. PROSECUTION DEMANDED THREE YEAR SENTENCES FOR EACH. C) REV. IM TAE-PYONG STOOD TRIAL JUNE 10 FOR SPREADING FALSE RUMORS.

2. IN FIRST TWO CASES, TRIALS TOOK PLACE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE TO FAMILIES. INDEED, COURT APPOINTED LAWYERS REPRESENTED DEFENDANTS AT INITIAL HEARINGS ON JUNE 9, SINCE FAMILIES DID NOT HAVE TIME TO ARRANGE FOR DEFENSE COUNSEL THEMSELVES. HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND FAMILIES HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR OTHER LAWYERS TO HANDLE DEFENSE FROM NOW ON.

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3. DISSIDENTS NOT (RPT NOT) SURE WHY ROKG PRESSES SOME CASES AND NOT OTHERS. THUS, WHILE ROKG HAS SHOWN RESTRAINT IN PROSECUTING EM-9 CASES IN LAST THREE MONTHS, POSSIBILITY THAT IT WILL BRING SOME CASES TO COURT SERVES AS CONTINUING DETERRENT FOR POTENTIAL DEMONSTRATORS.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRIALS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL05319
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770228-0780
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770614/aaaaamik.tel
Line Count: 61
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2021982
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THRE MORE EM-9 TRIALS
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9c53da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009